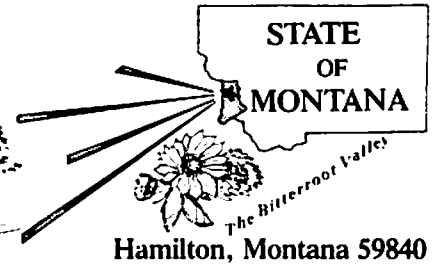
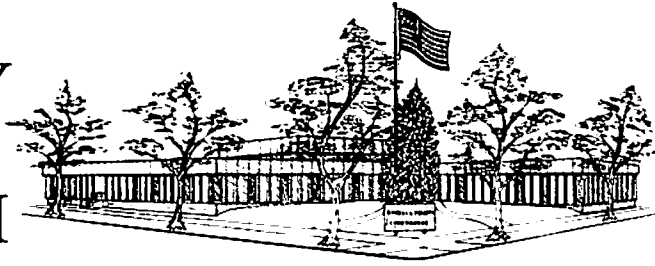


# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Hamilton, Montana 59840

**Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
406-375-6500**

August 5, 2008

Mr. David Bull  
Forest Service  
1801 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Mr. Bull:

The Ravalli Board of County Commissioners administers all laws related to County matters that are passed by the State Legislature. These responsibilities include managing the county transportation system in a safe and cost efficient manner for the citizens of Ravalli County and Montana. On April 29, 2008 the Board of County Commissioners sent a letter to the Bitterroot National Forest requesting to take 1,000 cubic yards of rock from the existing Lost Horse quarry. Because we share much of the transportation system in Ravalli County and work cooperatively with the Forest Service on many road issues we understood the rock could be provided without charge since both the Forest Service and Ravalli County are public road agencies.

The rock is intended to be used in conjunction with several scheduled county highway improvement projects; however, the main use of this rock is to be used in conjunction with the Kootenai Creek bridge replacement project which must be completed in 2008. The total cost for the bridge replacement project is \$453,000 of which the county's portion is \$115,000, plus non-reimbursable equipment and labor costs. State funding will provide the remainder of the cost of the replacement. However, in order to take advantage of this funding the county had to contract for the replacement this summer.

The use of rock from the Lost Horse quarry is an important part of the bridge replacement because it would save the county substantial money compared to purchasing rock from a private gravel pit. The county does not otherwise have funding available for this purpose. The cost of rip-rap from private sources has been quoted at \$34.30 per delivered yard. By utilizing county crews and equipment and rock from the Lost Horse quarry the County will realize substantial cost savings.

If the county is unable to use the Lost Horse quarry rock it means the taxpayers of Ravalli County will have to make up the difference in costs. More immediately it means that important road maintenance projects will either be delayed or deferred because of the lack of funding. Given that the Lost Horse quarry is an existing quarry that has been in regular use by the Forest Service and given that the county's proposed extraction of rock involves no blasting, no crushing and no expansion of the quarry I believe that the public interest is well served by the county's use of this rock. That is why we requested it in the first place.

I believe the citizens of Ravalli County will be harmed both economically, and by the need to defer important road maintenance projects, if we cannot utilize this rock source. Thank you for your support and assistance with this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carlotta Grandstaff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairman  
Ravalli County Commissioners

CC: David H. Ohnstad, County Road Supervisor